

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. to 40. (Canceled)

41. (Currently Amended) An order taking apparatus comprising:

a communication unit adapted to communicate information with a plurality of terminal apparatuses through a predetermined communication line so as to receive an order for an article including a designation of a specific date regarding the order from each of the plurality of terminal apparatuses;

a service information storage unit adapted to store service information, including a benefit, on a service corresponding to an order for an article;

a screen information transmission unit adapted to transmit information in a mark-up language for an ordering screen to the plurality of terminal apparatuses;

an order condition information storage unit adapted to store condition information for the order for the article received by said communication unit from each of the plurality of terminal apparatuses;

a reception unit adapted to receive amount information on an amount of the article included in the order from each of the plurality of terminal apparatuses;

an adder unit adapted to add information obtained in accordance with weight information or volume information of the article included in an article information

table corresponding to and the amount information received by said reception unit to the condition information stored in said order condition information storage unit;

a comparison unit adapted to compare the condition information after addition by said adder unit with a standard value relating to a loading capacity of a vehicle;

a changing unit adapted to change service information common to the orders for the articles received from the plurality of terminal apparatuses included in the service information stored in said service information storage unit, if the comparison made by said comparison unit shows that the condition information after the addition by said adder unit exceeds the standard value; and

a service information transmission unit adapted to transmit the service information changed by said changing unit and a corresponding benefit to the plurality of terminal apparatuses,

wherein the service information corresponds to one of allocation dates of a vehicle that carries the articles for fulfilling the order.

42. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 41, wherein the order for an article comprises a request for delivery of a predetermined article or a request for collection of an expendable supply for the article for recycling.

43. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 41, wherein the article is a used item and the order for the article comprises a request for collection of the used item for recycling.

44. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 41, wherein said communication unit notifies one or more of the plurality of terminal apparatuses which ordered the article before the service information is changed of the service information changed by said changing unit.

45. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 41, wherein the service information benefit indicates a discount rate or point.

46. (Currently Amended) A method for an order taking apparatus, comprising:

a communication step of communicating information with a plurality of terminal apparatuses through a predetermined communication line so as to receive an order for an article that includes a designation of a specific date regarding the order from each of the plurality of terminal apparatuses;

a service information storage step of storing service information, including a benefit, on a service corresponding to an order for an article;

a screen information transmission step of transmitting information of in a mark-up language for an ordering screen to the plurality of terminal apparatuses;

an order condition information storage step of storing condition information for the order for the article received by said communication step from each of the plurality of terminal apparatuses;

a reception step of receiving amount information on an amount of the article included in the order from each of the plurality of terminal apparatuses;

an adding step of adding information obtained in accordance with weight information or volume information of the article included in an article information table ~~corresponding to~~ and the amount information received by said reception step to the condition information stored in said order condition information storage step;

a comparison step of comparing the condition information after addition by said adding step with a standard value relating to a loading capacity of a vehicle;

a changing step of changing service information common to the orders for the articles received from the plurality of terminal apparatuses included in the service information stored in said service information storage step, if the comparison made by said comparison step shows that the condition information after the addition by said adding step exceeds the standard value; and

a service information transmission step of transmitting the service information changed by said changing step and a corresponding benefit to the plurality of terminal apparatuses,

wherein the service information corresponds to one of allocation dates of a vehicle that carries the articles.

47. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 46, wherein the order for an article comprises a request for delivery of a predetermined article or a request for collection of an expendable supply for the article for recycling.

48. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 46, wherein the article is a used item and the order for the article comprises a request for collection of the used item for recycling.

49. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 46, wherein said communication ~~unit~~ step notifies one or more of the plurality of terminal apparatuses which ordered the article before the service information is changed of the service information changed by said changing ~~unit~~ step.

50. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 46, wherein the service information benefit indicates a discount rate or point.

51. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium on which is stored a computer-executable program for executing a method for an order taking apparatus the program comprising:

a communication step of communicating information with a plurality of terminal apparatuses through a predetermined communication line so as to receive an order for an article that includes a designation of a specific date regarding the order from each of the plurality of terminal apparatuses;

a service information storage step of storing service information, including a benefit, on a service corresponding to an order for an article;

a screen information transmission step of transmitting information of in a mark-up language for an ordering screen to the plurality of terminal apparatuses;

an order condition information storage step of storing condition information for the order for the article received by said communication step from each of the plurality of terminal apparatuses;

a reception step of receiving amount information on an amount of the article included in the order from each of the plurality of terminal apparatuses;

an adding step of adding information obtained in accordance with weight information or volume information of the article included in an article information table corresponding to and the amount information received by said reception step to the condition information stored in said order condition information storage step;

a comparison step of comparing the condition information after addition by said adding step with a standard value relating to a loading capacity of a vehicle;

a changing step of changing service information common to the orders for the articles received from the plurality of terminal apparatuses included in the service information stored in said service information storage step, if the comparison made by said comparison step shows that the condition information after the addition by said adding step exceeds the standard value; and

a service information transmission step of transmitting the service information changed by said changing step and a corresponding benefit to the plurality of terminal apparatuses,

wherein the service information corresponds to one of allocation dates of a vehicle that carries the articles.